

From: [Steve Mason](#)
To: [R6 DWH Info@EPA](#)
Subject: Fw: NIC ISG Activities Update - - FYI ALL
Date: 05/18/2010 05:06 PM
Attachments: [DH-LOOP Paper \(Draft\) 18-MAY-10.docx](#)
[NIC STRATCOM Barrier Islands18May10.docx](#)

Faithfully yours
Steve

"Frequently, my thoughts get bored and walk
down to my mouth. Often, this is a bad thing."

Steve Mason, EPA Region 6 (6SF-PE)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2276 / 214-665-2278 fax

----- Forwarded by Steve Mason/R6/USEPA/US on 05/18/2010 05:06 PM -----

From: Steve Mason/R6/USEPA/US
To: James Staves/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 05/18/2010 05:05 PM
Subject: Fw: NIC ISG Activities Update - - FYI ALL

Faithfully yours
Steve

"Frequently, my thoughts get bored and walk
down to my mouth. Often, this is a bad thing."

Steve Mason, EPA Region 6 (6SF-PE)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2276 / 214-665-2278 fax

----- Forwarded by Steve Mason/R6/USEPA/US on 05/18/2010 05:05 PM -----

From: Mark Mjones/DC/USEPA/US
To: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Shane Hitchcock/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Mike Faulkner/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Steve Mason" <Mason.Steve@epa.gov>, "Mark Mjones" <Mjones.Mark@epa.gov>, Jim Knoy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Erica Canzler/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 05/18/2010 04:17 PM
Subject: NIC ISG Activities Update - - FYI ALL

OK guys, this is the "data dump" I promised you on the 11:30 EOC/R4/R6/ISG call this morning

First, the 1) Subsea Dispersant Group - -this is an update from what I know when we last spoke. Jim and I met with Dr Mark Miller from NOAA who is one of our NOAA counterparts here in the EOC. He provided us with the following information. I will lay this out in bullets then provide a few suggestions

- Sam Walker and Charlie Henry (SSC) in Roberts are leading the Subsea work group (or whatever they are calling themselves) consisting of six individuals in the Roberts EU, and doing the following:

- Developing a Sampling and Monitoring Plan for the Subsea work FOR dispersants. They have gliders and all kinds of unique sampling equipment to find any subsurface oil and dispersants.

- Developing sampling SOPs

- Looking for help with instrumentation

- Developing a Data Repository System for the subsea work (system will provide results, validation and posting)

- Want to also look at dispersant persistence, bio-accumulation and half life in the environment

- May develop modelling element too for subsea oil.

Now, having heard this from NOAA, I offer the following suggestion. We need to team with NOAA and carve out a partnership where they deal with subsea (open water) and we deal with shoreline water and sediment for purposes of developing dispersant data. How do we merge our HQ Dispersant Efforts with the NOAA Roberts UAC work in the EU?

2) Loop Current work group - - we provided some comments to the paper circulated earlier today. I forwarded the Office of Water comments as well as a few comments I had. Here they are:



DH-LOOP Paper (Draft) 18-MAY-10.docx

Mjoness' comments are in the document in [blue type](#).

- Consideration must be given to oil in the water column and this paper does not address this. As the surface oil weathers it accumulates as various sized globules and balls and may leave the surface and go into the water column. Also, the dispersants are likely causing oil to stay in the water column.
- As the Loop approaches the Tortugas, Middle Grounds, and Florida Keys, the shallow geography will affect the current and break off parts of the current as eddies. This is not mentioned or considered.
- Much of the toxic volatiles on the surface component will have volatilized after prolonged exposure to the elements. What happens to these compounds if they stay sub-surface?
- Oil in the water column poses a risk to exposed benthic communities and pelagic organisms so it is important.
- The increased temperature of the shallow areas may need to be considered in relation to the bioavailability of the oil delivered to those sites.

3) Flow Rate Work Group - - will get an update at 5 pm, but still looking for an

engineer contact from RPDD or elsewhere to represent EPA on this group. If we don't care that is ok. We should check up the chain of command to see if EPA needs to play in this group.

4) Berm/Barrier Island Group - - I am on this group having led it last week in initiating the paper for the NIC. Since then we have heard that other Parishes are also submitting proposals to the USACE for additional berms and barrier island enhancements. All indications is that the inter agency members here think these are not sound ideas as methods of oil spill mitigation techniques. The most recent paper is attached. Again, this has not yet been finalized by the NIC so stay tuned. I just want you to have the latest info - - it is the communications strategy for communicating the NIC's message. This has been turned into a more specific opinion paper to document the NICs position on this proposed response concept - - stay tuned for that.



NIC STRATCOM Barrier Islands18May10.docx

Needless to say this is sensitive information

5) R&D - -The USCG R&D Center out of New London, CT is putting together a process to quickly and independently review ideas applicable to the ongoing DH spill response. Jim Knoy is our member on this group being managed by Capt Gould. Jim is waiting for the groups narrative description on their process and he will engage our EOC and our R&D folk to link EPA's efforts with this effort. Stay tuned.

Getting on our SL call now.

Mark

Mark Mjones, Director
National Planning and Preparedness Division

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
US EPA HQ, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. 5104A
Washington DC, 20460
Office: 202.564.1976
Cell: 703.967.5013
Fax: 202.564.2620
Web: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/>
Email: mjones.mark@epa.gov

▼ Craig Carroll---05/18/2010 03:35:35 PM---See Steve's note. Will keep you posted.
Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US
To: "Mark Mjones" <Mjones.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: "Steve Mason" <Mason.Steve@epa.gov>
Date: 05/18/2010 03:35 PM

Subject: Fw: Fw: ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three work groups here at the NIC

See Steve's note. Will keep you posted.
Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

▼ Steve Mason

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Mason

Sent: 05/18/2010 01:02 PM CDT

To: Craig Carroll

Cc: James Staves; R6 DWH REOC RIC

Subject: Re: Fw: ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three
work groups here at the NIC

No we have not invited or even told they were here... again, they are groups being run out of the NIC.... I will talk to James to get us plugged in ...

Faithfully yours
Steve

"Frequently, my thoughts get bored and walk down to my mouth. Often, this is a bad thing."

Steve Mason, EPA Region 6 (6SF-PE)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2276 / 214-665-2278 fax

▼ Craig Carroll---05/18/2010 12:58:28 PM---Are you or Jim attending any of these meeting? Craig Carroll

From: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US

To: Steve Mason/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: James Staves/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, R6 DWH REOC RIC@EPA

Date: 05/18/2010 12:58 PM

Subject: Fw: ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three work groups here at the NIC

Are you or Jim attending any of these meeting?

Craig Carroll
Chief, Emergency Readiness Section
EPA Region 6
Ph: 214-665-2220
Fax: 214-665-9718

----- Forwarded by Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US on 05/18/2010 12:45 PM -----

From: "Hanzalik, James CAPT" <James.E.Hanzalik@uscg.mil>

To: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 05/18/2010 11:33 AM

Subject: RE: ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three work groups here at the NIC

These are national groups and we have CG reps from here and hq on them.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: Carroll.Craig@epamail.epa.gov [<mailto:Carroll.Craig@epamail.epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 12:03 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Hanzalik, James CAPT
Cc: Goetzee, William; Mason.Steve@epamail.epa.gov;
R6_DWH_REOC_RIC@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Fw: ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three work groups here at the NIC

James, are these groups now meeting in Robert? EPA HQ folks at the NIC asked if these groups were meeting and how they could tie into them. Please advise. Thanks

Craig Carroll
Chief, Emergency Readiness Section
EPA Region 6
Ph: 214-665-2220
Fax: 214-665-9718

----- Forwarded by Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US on 05/18/2010 11:01 AM -----

From:
Mark Mjoness/DC/USEPA/US
To:
Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Shane Hitchcock/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc:
Mike Faulkner/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Erica Canzler/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, "Kamoie, Brian E." <Brian_E._Kamoie@nsc.eop.gov>, Jim Knoy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date:
05/17/2010 02:55 PM
Subject:
ACTION FOR EPA requested by NIC RE: Three work groups here at the NIC

All:

Tito and Erica - - placed a call to each of your cell phones earlier today. Did not leave a message. We have somewhat of an urgent request from USCG HQ/NIC:
ACTION REQUESTED OF EPA as part of the Interagency Solutions Group!

Need your advice/decision on who EPA would like to have participate as technical experts on the following three workgroups being formed up here at the NIC. The workgroups' members can be virtual participants. The three workgroups are:

- 1) Flow Rate Technical Group. This group will look at the amount of oil being produced as well as the disposition of the oil (oil budget - discharge rate = emulsification -(evaporation+dissolution+natural dispersion) - (burning + skimming) - chemical dispersion) + amount on surface + shoreline = sedimentation.
- 2) Sub-sea Dispersant Team - chemical composition of the dispersant, monitoring results for volume of oil dispersed and transport and characteristics of dispersed oil plume, and exposure and effect to marine resources. Sea food safety is included in this group.
- 3) Loop Current - -Fate and effects of surface and subsurface non-dispersed oil. Sea food is also a concern of this group

I had suggested that Lance Richman of Region 9 participate on the Flow Rate Tech Group. Lance was a former employee of Exxon where he inspected and assured safe operations of their oil platforms in the Gulf. His experience would be quite valuable, I believe, on this group.

I think we have key scientists on ERT who may be interested in the second two work groups as special team members. How can we resolve this request so the members can start working together via phone calls and via e mails?

Please let us know what you advise.

Thanks,

Mark

Mark Mjoness, Director
National Planning and Preparedness Division

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
US EPA HQ, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. 5104A
Washington DC, 20460
Office: 202.564.1976
Cell: 703.967.5013
Fax: 202.564.2620
Web: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/>
Email: mjoness.mark@epa.gov

